Introduction

Compounds are made of a close combination of two or more lexical items. These may be a noun and a noun, a verb and a noun or a noun and an adjectival verb. The new united single compound functions as a single noun, verb or as an adjectival verb. All members of cpds are free forms except in the case of affixal cpds.

Cpds in Thai could be distinguished from phrases following certain criteria like:

1. Insertion: If an element could be inserted between two members of an expression, then it is a phrase, while cpds do not allow such insertion.

2. Pausing: In a phrase, pausing is allowed but not in a cpd.

3. Separation: Components of a phrase could be written as two or more words while the components of a cpd will be together.

Generally, a cpd is different from a simple word in meaning since a combination of two or more words may result in a new meaning.

All cpds are derived from different underlying semantic structures along with various rules. Some cpds are derived
from various phrases, particularly, noun and verbal phrases. In the case of verbal cpds, the connection between the underlying semantic structures and the actual forms of the cpds is idiosyncratic.

Native cpds are different from cpds made of non-native words since Thai is an agglutinative language in which words are combined into a cpd without change of form or loss of meaning. But forms from non-native languages like Pali and Sanskrit are combined into cpds with change of form or loss of meaning. Native Thai words are monosyllabic, while non-native words from Pali and Sanskrit words are polysyllabic.

The original derivation, especially case relation, of cpds in Thai corresponds to case relation of cpds in Pali. Since prepositions in Thai, in the first time, have been established in place of case endings of nouns in Pali, the case meaning between Pali and Thai corresponds by translation. But on the other hand, prepositions in Thai are put before nouns whereas case endings in Pali are put after nouns.

Cpds in Thai and Pali can be compared as derived from the same case relation e.g.;

**Instrumental case:**

Pali: N-ena 'N-of'
kamsa-pati 'a bowl made of iron'
(iron-bowl)
kamsena pakata: pati
iron-of made bowl
"A bowl is made of iron".

Thai: düey-N 'of-N'
muj-luet 'a screen'
(mosquito net-wire)
muj tham düey luet
mosquito net make of wire
"The mosquito net is made of wire."

Dative case:

Pali: N-ya: 'N-for'
bodhi-satto 'a being, destined for enlightenment'
(enlightenment-being)
satto bodhiya: upasamkami
being enlightenment-for destined
"The being is destined for enlightenment."

Thai: phtē-N 'for-N'
ŋa:n-sąkhom 'social work'
(work-society)
ŋa:n thî: pen pɾəoːt phtē săːkhom
work which be useful for society
"The work which is useful for the society."
Possessive case:

Pali: N-ssa 'N-of'

buddha-sawako 'the Buddha's disciple'
(Buddha-disciple)

buddhassa  sāyako

Buddha-of disci ple
"A disciple of Buddha"

Thai: khěːː:\-N 'of-N'

mťæːː-thay 'Thailand'
(country-Thai people)

mťæːː  khěːːː thay
country of Thai people
"The country of Thai people"

The co-ordinate relation ca 'and' in Pali can be compared
with a co-ordinate conjunction leʔ in Thai as follows:

Pali: N-ca-N 'N-and-N'

maːːːtaːː-piaró 'parents'

maːːːtaːː ca pita

moth er and father
"The mother and the father."

Thai: N-leʔ- N 'N-and-N'

phòːːː-ńːː: 'parents'

(father-mother)

phòːːː  leʔ  ñːː: father and mother
"The father and the mother"
While cpds are produced by the combination of two or more words with independent meanings, the words containing the more prominent meaning could be regarded as the head. The other words containing a lesser prominent meaning together form the attribute.

The head of a cpd in Thai very often occupies the first position and the attribute the second position. Observe that if the head of a cpd occupies the second position, such a cpd contains members borrowed from Pali and Sanskrit.

The following cpds contain the head as the first member and the attribute as the second member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cpds</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Attribute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ชี-kràda't 'a paper tiger'</td>
<td>ชี</td>
<td>kràda't N+N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(tiger-paper)</td>
<td>tiger</td>
<td>paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ภ.ะ-มิ:t 'a dark horse'</td>
<td>ภ.ะ</td>
<td>มิ:t N+Adj V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(horse-to be dark)</td>
<td>horse</td>
<td>to be dark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ภ.ะ:khèn 'a race horse'</td>
<td>ภ.ะ</td>
<td>khèn N+V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(horse-to race)</td>
<td>horse</td>
<td>race</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following cpds contain the head as the second member and the attribute as the first member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cpds</th>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sri:-phanráya: 'a good wife'</td>
<td>sri:</td>
<td>phanráya: Adj + N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(good-wife)</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ฎาริya-thráp 'a noble treasure'</td>
<td>ฎาริya?</td>
<td>thráp Adj + N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(noble-treasure)</td>
<td>noble</td>
<td>treasure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assembly of the Buddha's disciples

(disciple-assembly) assembly disciple

The position of components of a cpd is sometimes important for the total meaning. E.g.,

phát-lom 'a fan' (to blow-wind)
lom-phát 'to wind' (wind-to blow)
cay-di: 'to be kindhearted' (mind to be glad)
di:-cay 'to be glad' (to be good-mind)
tue-rón 'to have a fever' (body-to be hot)
rón-tue 'to be afraid' (to be hot-body)

We find a similar situation in the case of classifiers also. The position of a classifier in relation to the numeral in a noun phrase determines the definiteness/indefiniteness of the phrase. For instance, làq is a classifier that stands for objects like 'house'. Observe the following phrases:

bâ:n n tàq làq
house one clf.
"Any house."

bâ:n làq n tàq
house clf. one
"A particular house."

When n tàq precedes làq, it means indefiniteness whereas the reverse order signifies definiteness.
The data for this analysis have been mostly collected from the following dictionaries:


The material consists of more than two thousand Noun compounds, one thousand Verbal compounds and around one thousand Adjectival verb compounds.

Treatment of Loan compounds and Technical term compounds in Thai is regarded as new in this thesis, these compounds have been found as irregularly mixed with texts in various books from which they have been extracted.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

- Abl: ablative
- Adj: adjective
- Adjv: adjectival verb
- Adjv 1: the first adjectival verb in a cpd
- Adjv 2: the second adjectival verb in a cpd
- Adv: adverb
- Agt. n: agent noun
- Clf.: classifier
- Cpdc: compound